

APPENDIX A

USFWS LETTER - POTENTIAL SPECIES OF CONCERN WITHIN THE BRAWLEY BYPASS PROJECT AREA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Field Office
2730 Loker Avenue West
Carlsbad, California 92008

JUL 16 1998

Bruce April
District Biologist
Department of Transportation
2829 Juan Street
P.O. Box 85406
San Diego, California 92186

Re: Request for Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Proposed Species that May Occur in the Vicinity of the Proposed Brawley Bypass, Imperial County, California (1-6-98-SP-102)

Dear Mr. April:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in the Alternatives Analysis Report, dated May, 1997, and is providing a list of endangered and threatened species that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed Brawley Bypass in Imperial County, California. We do not have site specific information for this area; consequently, the attached list contains general information regarding listed species that may occur in the vicinity of the project.

The Service is concerned with potential impacts not only to the federally listed species, but to burrowing owls and to birds that may roost in vegetation along the New River. We would like to work with you to minimize impacts to such species. In addition, Brawley Bypass development will likely entail construction of a bridge to span the New River. Bridge structures have been found to benefit bat species in several desert areas. Therefore the Service would like to work with Caltrans to encourage inclusion of "bat-friendly" expansion joints and design details, in the hopes that this bridge might benefit the bat populations of Imperial County.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sandy Vissman of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

for Sheryl L. Barrett
Assistant Field Supervisor

Listed Endangered, Threatened, Proposed,
and Candidate Species that May Occur in the Area
of the Proposed Brawley Bypass, Imperial County, California
(1-6-98-SP-102)

July 15, 1998

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
-------------	-----------------	--------

Listed Species
BIRDS

brown pelican	<u>Pelecanus occidentalis</u>	E
least Bell's vireo	<u>Vireo bellii pusillus</u>	E
peregrine falcon	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	E
southwestern willow flycatcher	<u>Empidonax traillii extimus</u>	E
Yuma clapper rail	<u>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</u>	E
mountain plover	<u>Charadrius montanus</u>	C

FISH

desert pupfish	<u>Cyprinodon macularius</u>	E
----------------	------------------------------	---

E: Endangered
C: Candidate